

Australian

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PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

P.O. Box 43, MOORABBIN, 3189, Victoria, Australia

NEWS LETTER

JAN.-FEB. 1971.

The following Press Release was written and distributed to all major news media in Australia, by our Public Relations Officer, Mr. Paul Norman.

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Ufologists around the world will be following, with interest, the flight of Apollo 14 to the moon.

In the past there have been a number of news leaks concerning UFO activities around both manned and unmanned space probes.

On January 10th, 1961, the tracking station at Cape Kennedy was tracking a polaris missile when it locked onto a UFO which crossed its path. Fourteen minutes elapsed before personnel could restore the tracking apparatus back onto the polaris rocket.

On July 17th, 1962, Robert White was flying his X-15 on a record altitude flight when a large grey UFO flew alongside his plane, then glided over his canopy and sped away.

On May 16th, 1963, while astronaut Gordon Cooper was in his fifteenth orbit over Western Australia, a UFO made a pass at his space craft and flew off in the opposite direction. The UFO was seen by hundreds of people near Perth and newsmen at Cape Kennedy overheard Cooper's report to the station. The news was immediately broadcast to the American public over NBC's coast to coast radio network.

On June 3rd, 1965, astronaut James McDivitt saw a UFO closing in on Gemini 4 and was thinking that it may be necessary to take evasive action when the UFO turned and flew away. McDivitt managed to take some movie exposures on black and white film together with one still photograph. Later, when the officials showed the astronaut some pictures, he said they were not of the UFO that he had photographed.

On December 4th, 1965, James Lovell and Frank Borman sighted a UFO from Gemini 7 during their second orbit. When asked by ground control if they were sure this was not their booster, Borman replied that they knew where the booster was and that this was a real UFO sighting. Like all UFO incidents the story was squashed.

On July 18th, 1966, astronaut John Young was overheard when he radioed ground control that two bright objects were pacing their space craft.

Due to world-wide interest in this subject, officials are finding it very awkward to keep UFO sighting reports suppressed. Strict regulations forbid public reporting of UFOs and, whilst moon probe pictures come directly to the public through Honeysuckle Creek, the sound must first pass through Houston, Texas, for classified reasons. Such actions are making it increasingly difficult for the press and the public to learn more details about these UFO sightings.

While officials struggle to convey the impression that only inexperienced people report UFOs, the best reports came from airline and military pilots who at one time reported more sightings than people of any other occupation. That record has now passed to the astronauts who have a flight reporting record of nearly 100 per cent.

L A T E S T F R O M M . O . D . (A I R)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London S.W.1
8 May 1970.

Dear Mr. Beer,

I am writing to thank you for your letter of 2 May 1970 asking for information about unidentified flying objects.

The attitude of the Ministry of Defence towards reports of unidentified flying objects is quite straightforward. The Department investigates reports of unidentified flying objects because of their possible air defence implications.

Unidentified flying objects reports are examined in the Ministry of Defence by experienced staff. They do this with open minds. They have access to all information available to the Ministry of Defence. They call on the full scientific and professional resources of the Ministry of Defence and may call in expert advice as necessary from other Government and non-Government bodies.

The vast majority of UFO reports turn out to have mundane explanations and we have found no evidence that they represent an air defence threat to the United Kingdom. I think you may be interested to read the enclosed analysis of the UFO reports we have received since 1959. You will see that the incidents which give rise to UFO reports are varied. The most common single source is aircraft. Satellites and 'space junk' reports come a close second. Balloons and various meteorological and natural phenomena account for a fair number of reports and some reports originate from unusual sighting of celestial objects; and finally there is a range of miscellaneous sightings, covering a wide variety of events, including hoaxes.

The relatively small number of reports which remain unexplained contained insufficient information to enable the occurrence concerned to be positively identified. Although we are unable to make positive identification in these cases, there was nothing in the reports even to suggest that the incidents to which they refer were any different from the incidents mentioned in reports which were identified.

People who submit reports are advised of our findings, but correspondence between members of the public and the Department on any subject is regarded by this Department as a private matter between the person concerned and the Department. In accordance with this principle full details of UFO reports received by the Department cannot be released. Access to public records is governed by the Public Records Acts which, as a general rule, provide for records to be opened to public scrutiny after thirty years.

Yours sincerely

(L.W. AKHURST)

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MDL/12/26 - 20 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE UFO STATISTICS 1st JANUARY 1959 to 31st DECEMBER 1969.

The Ministry of Defence receives reports from many sources, including members of the public, the Police, and Service units.

YEAR	SATELLITES and DEBRIS	BALLOONS	CELESTIAL OBJECTS	METEOROLOGICAL and NATURAL PHENOMENA	AIRCRAFT	* MISCELLANEOUS	UNEXPLAINED (INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION)	TOTAL
1959	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	22
1960	-	8	2	7	10	1	3	31
1961	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	71
1962	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	46
1963	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	51
1964	43	3	6	-	10	7	5	74
1965	27	3	3	2	7	-	14	56
1966	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	95
1967	57	42	26	19	150	22	46	362
1968	65	10	36	3	114	30	22	280
1969	37	9	27	19	101	17	18	228
TOTAL	313	111	123	94	441	110	124	1316

*MISCELLANEOUS reports include: hoaxes, reflection of lights on cloud, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures and photographic aberrations.

OFFICIAL INTEREST.

The following list was compiled by the A.P.R.O. 3910E. Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona, 85716. U.S.A., and appeared in their Bulletin.

With the closure of Project Blue Book, which operated within the Air Force's elite Foreign Technology Division (formerly Air Technical Intelligence Center), the governments known to maintain token UFO study projects are Argentina (Research and Development Division, Air Force and Intelligence Service, Navy); Australia (Intelligence Department, Air Force); Britain (Ministry of Defense); Canada (Upper Atmosphere Research Section, National Research Council); Chile (Department of Meteorology, Air Force); Greece (National Meteor Service, Ministry of Defence); New Zealand (Meteorological Service, Air Force and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research); and Sweden (Research Institute of National Defense). Most of these UFO "projects" merely maintain statistical files on observations reported to the respective governments and few investigations are actually conducted. In most cases, funds for further investigations are not available from these governments and the UFO sections are run on a part time basis within some other department.

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TOO MANY COOKS.....!

Two well known UFO groups in South Australia had a very amicable agreement with the Police in that State, whereby they would receive notification of any UFO reports received by their office. That is, until the formation of another group, headed by a 15 year old high school student received a great deal of publicity, both in the press and among other Societies. It was unfortunate that in his enthusiasm, he went to the police to ask for the same courtesy offered the other Societies in that State. Thus, the Police Dept., finding themselves servants of more than the two groups, quickly despatched a letter from the Commissioner of Police stating that "owing to the number of organisations concerned, it has been decided to review our practice of notifying various people when reports of UFO's are received, and in future any such reports will be relayed only to the R.A.A.F."

Mr. Fred Stone of U.F.O.P.I.A., states "it could be that this was just what officialdom was waiting for, a chance to find a loophole to discontinue the service, and this affair played right into their hands."

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Some V.U.F.O.R.S. Committee members have spoken to the R.A.A.F. at Laverton and when questioned about co-operation, we were told that information is only one way - inward, not out!!

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It would seem that we must therefore rely on our members and the general public for our sighting reports, so DON'T FORGET, IF YOU, OR ANYONE YOU KNOW HAS A GOOD SIGHTING (not just a light in the sky) INFORM YOUR SOCIETY. GET THE DETAILS AND ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO THE SECRETARY, C/o BOX 43, MOORABBIN. 3189.

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GENERAL MEETINGS.

The Society's General Meetings, which are open to the public, are to be held on the SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, COMMENCING FEBRUARY, in the National Mutual Theatrette, 447 Collins Street, Melbourne at 8 p.m. Admittance by donation.

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THE CONTROVERSIAL UFO FRAGMENTS.

Dr. Allen R. Utke, Ph.D, Looks at the UFO Problem.

Credit SKYLOOK, Box 129, Stover,
Mo. U.S.A. 65078.

Any supposed UFO sample or fragment is going to be questioned, Dr. Utke states. To illustrate this with a specific example, he takes up the most publicized physical evidence case known -- the Ubatuba magnesium fragments. These fragments apparently were the only physical evidence analyzed by the Condon Committee.

To review--on Sept. 14, 1957, it was reported an observer saw a UFO explode in mid-air, showering fragments over the sea and a beach in the Ubatuba region of Brazil. Three small pieces of dull-grey metal were then mailed to a newspaper columnist in Rio de Janeiro, and he reported the signature on the letter was "illegible". The samples were turned over to the late Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, a local UFO investigator, who took them to a Brazilian government laboratory for analysis.

Emission spectroscopy revealed magnesium of "unusual purity" containing "no other metallic element" and "no trace elements." Analysis by x-ray diffraction affirmed that the samples were about 100% pure magnesium but also revealed that they contained magnesium oxide and magnesium hydroxide. X-ray diffraction also disclosed a type of atomic structure that indicated the "samples were fragments of a magnesium casting." A density of 1.866 grams per cubic centimeter was found instead of the expected value of 1.741 for terrestrial magnesium. Although this could indicate a non-terrestrial isotopic distribution, the samples were not subjected to mass spectroscopy.

The Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation then received the samples (Dr. Fontes was a member of APRO) and submitted one of the fragments to the United States Air Force for analysis. But when the fragment was "accidentally burned" during an attempt at emission spectroscopy, APRO declined to send another. Emission spectroscopy by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) revealed small amounts of iron, silicon, aluminium, and copper present as impurities in the sample. The AEC also redetermined the density of one of the fragments by another method and found it to be 1.7513--fairly close to the expected value of 1.741.

In February of 1968, one of the fragments was loaned to the Condon Committee and it was subsequently analyzed by neutron activation analysis at the F.B.I. laboratories in Washington, D.C. The sample was found to be 99% pure magnesium. Magnesium of this purity currently can be produced here on the earth. Small amounts of zinc, barium, manganese, and chromium were found as impurities, but no aluminium or calcium. Most terrestrial magnesium contains the latter two elements.

The Ubatuba fragments are extremely interesting, but they have not conclusively convinced most scientists that they are genuine extra-terrestrial UFO fragments. There's just too much to detract from this conclusion. For example, the idea of a hoax cannot be ruled out because the finder of the fragments has never been identified. Also, although the fragments have been rather extensively analysed, the analyses are confusing because they conflict. Confusion always leads to doubt, Dr. Utke reminds us. But most damaging of all, the samples are simply unusually pure magnesium (a rather poor structural material).

The April 1969 issue of "Chemistry Magazine" states "The sample was similar to magnesium produced by the Dow Chemical Company."

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Since this is the first newsletter for 1971, the Committee wishes all members a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year, and we hope to meet many of you at the meetings, bring your friends,
ALL ARE WELCOME.

CONDON REPORT FAILS TO CONVINCE.

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) scientists have rejected the Condon Report as the last word on UFOs saying they could find no basis in the report for Dr. Condon's prediction that nothing of scientific value will come of further studies.

"In fact," the group stated, "We find that the opposite conclusion could have been drawn from the content of the report, namely, that a phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases (about 30 per cent) should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study".

The Institute charged that the Condon Report is not as negative in its conclusions as Condon's "Summary of the Study" (Sectional of the Report) would suggest. The Summary "contains more than its title indicates," said AIAA, "it discloses many of Condon's personal conclusions." Moreover, "not all conclusions in the report itself are fully reflected in Condon's summary".

HYNEK BOOK DUE THIS YEAR

Scientific controversy over UFOs is likely to escalate again when Dr. J. Allen Hynek's new book, now in writing is published this year. Certain to be a classic in the field, the book will document Hynek's long association with the U. S. Government's investigation, and his conversion from skeptic to outspoken advocate of the seriousness of the UFO problem.

Followers of official attempts to debunk UFOs have long wondered when Hynek would disclose the details of his work as consultant to the erstwhile Project Blue Book, and would publish in book form his dissent from the Air Force position. Hynek feels the time is now, since his contractual obligations with the government have been met.

The publisher will be Cowles, of New York. Cowles also publishes Look magazine, which gave extensive coverage to the UFO subject in the 1960s.

MAJOR KEYHOE RETIRES

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, for 13 years Director of NICAP, has retired at age 72 as helmsman of the organisation. Kept by heavy administrative duties from his writing and traveling interests, the Major stepped down with great regret. He said he hoped he would be able to better serve NICAP in a capacity free from pressure of the Directorship.

Major Keyhoe was appointed NICAP Director early in 1957. His reputation as an authority on UFOs already earned, he guided the infant NICAP (founded in 1956) through lean years and fat as it worked to become acknowledged leader in serious UFO research.

Major Keyhoe is now working on a new book at his home in Virginia.

The above quotations from the UFO INVESTIGATOR, published by NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) 1522 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. 20036.

Annual Membership Dues

United States, Canada and Mexico -----\$ 10.00
Foreign-----\$ 12.00

Editor: Stuart Nixon

UFO Photographs taken by Danish Police Officer.

Dr. Bernard E. Finch, on behalf of the English Flying Saucer Review made enquiries, and this is the Officer's story, as told in the F.S.R. Case Histories, Supplement one, October 1970.

"You have asked me about my experience with the "Flying Saucer" which I saw on August 13, 1970, between 10.50 and 10.55p.m.

"I was driving in the par ol car, northwards along highway A 10 from the town of Haderslev. At the 6½ Km.stone, I turned right, in an easterly direction. I had been driving about 10 kms. when the car's engine stopped and the lights went out. A powerful, bright light was playing on the car from above. The temperature inside the car increased until it was like that of a very hot summer's day.

"I tried to call up the station - Haderslev - on the car's radio-telephone, but the radio was dead. I tried again, with the same negative result.

"Suddenly the bright light began to move away, and I managed to take six photographs with the camera which was lying near the window. I looked up and saw the light clearly against the sky. It appeared like a big oval plate about 15 metres in length and 5 metres across. Suddenly it looked like a big grey shadow some 25 metres up in the air, and after that it disappeared at a very high speed.

"It was a clear night, and the moon was up."

In his report to me, Officer Maarup did not state whether the lights of the car came on again when the UFO left the scene, but it is possible that he would have tried the switch when they failed in the first instance. As he returned to the station in good order, it is presumed it was a case of "all systems Go" when he tried them after the departure of the strange intruder.

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MORE MEN IN BLACK?

(For the benefit of those who are always asking about the 'men in black'!)

"Here's a delicious little piece for you, if you care to use it", wrote the sender of this item -

The Daily Times of Victoria, B.C. Canada, Saturday, April 11, 1970, announces that all priests in Naples, Italy, will soon have identity cards, because unidentified men disguised in dark clerical clothes have been celebrating masses, and hearing confessions, in local churches. Now, that's a new angle!"

Credit F.S.R. (English).

..... 49a Kings Grove, London.WC2.

NORWAY.

Motorist hurled to ground by UFO. (English F.S.Review.

There seems to have been a wave of UFO activity in Scandinavian countries in recent months. Here is the latest item - on which we may be able to comment in more detail in a later issue of F.S.R.- taken from the Yorkshire Post of November 4, 1970 -

"Oslo, Tuesday (3/11/'70). A 35-year-old Norwegian claims he was struck to the ground by the invisible rays of a flying saucer while driving along a desolate road in southern Norway.

"Reidar Salvesen, of Kristiansand, said he was blinded by a "fiery" disc which hovered just above the ground in front of his car.

"He said he had time to write a description of the object before being hurled to the ground as the saucer soared away and disappeared in a flash of light" (A.P. item).

The Committee is very disappointed to learn that the cost of hiring the Theatrette has risen from \$30.00 to \$35.00 for one evening, and hope that members will be able to assist in retaining this meeting place.

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